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COUNTRY Burma/Thai land

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SUBJECT

Burms/Thailand Tungsten Traffic

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- Tungsten concentrates from two areas other than Papun are shipped into Thailand to be sold.
- Eluvial deposits and numerous narrow veins are mined at Zinba (14-38, 98-12) near the Thai border. The concentrates are taken over the border near Amya Pass and floated down the Kwe Noi River to Kanchanaburi and then to Bangkok. Before the war the Zinba area produced from 60 to 100 tons of tungsten concentrates a year. Such concentrates were either smuggled into Thailand or sold in Burma depending on where a higher price could be obtained.
- Tungsten is also smuggled from the Mergui District into Thailand where it is sold at Ban Saphan Yai: This tungsten comes from Nanyin, mear the border just north of Maw Daung pass. Monthly production at these deposits, which were discovered since the war, amount to about 5 tons of concentrates.
- About 300 tons of concentrates were smuggled from Burma into Thailand in 1949. The largest shipments came from the area southeast of Mawchi and were routed through Mae Sariang. Since this area is near Thailand's chief tungsten deposits, smuggling is an easy matter.
- Although the figure of 300 tons seems inordinately high, the tonnage smuggled into Thailand would probably increase should the Tenasserim coastal towns be cut off as ports of shipment.

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